Here are some common symbols:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOURS**   (land elevation) | |
| Index number written on line | map symbol key |
| Intermediate between Index lines | topographic map symbol |
| Supplementary added to flat areas to show measurements | legend map symbol |
| Depression such as volcano top or crater (little dashes are called *hachures*) | map symbol |
| Cut; Fill roadway leveling terrain | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s019.gif |
| **VEGETATION** | |
| Woodland trees at least 6feet tall | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s053.gif |
| Scrub low brush | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s054.gif |
| Orchard planted vegetation | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s055.gif |
| Vineyard cultivated vines | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s056.gif |
| Mangrove dense, tropical trees | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s057a.gif |
| **SURFACE FEATURES** | |
| Levee | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s042a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s042b.gif |
| Sand or mud area, dunes or shifting sand | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s043a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s043b.gif |
| Intricate surface area | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s044a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s044b.gif |
| Gravel beach or glacial moraine | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s045.gif |
| Tailings pond | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s046.gif |
| **MINES AND CAVES** | |
| Quarry or open pit mine | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s047.gif |
| Gravel, sand, clay, or borrow pit | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s048.gif |
| Mine tunnel or cave entrance | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s049.gif |
| Prospect; mine shaft | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s050.gif |
| Mine dump | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s051.gif |
| Mine tailings | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s052a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s052b.gif |
| **GLACIERS AND PERMANENT SNOWFIELDS** | |
| Limit blue denotes coverage | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s058.gif |
| Form lines Show shape, not elevation | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s059.gif |
| **BUILDINGS AND RELATED FEATURES** | |
| Building | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s100a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s100b.gif |
| School; church | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s101.gif |
| Built-up Area | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s102a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s102b.gif |
| Racetrack | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s103a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s103b.gif |
| Airport | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s104a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s104b.gif |
| Landing strip | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s105.gif |
| Well (other than water); windmill | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s106.gif |
| Tanks | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s107a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s107b.gif |
| Covered reservoir | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s108.gif |
| Gaging station | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s109.gif |
| Landmark object (feature as labeled) | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s110.gif |
| Campground; picnic area | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s111.gif |
| Cemetery: small; large | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s112.gif |
| **ROADS AND RELATED FEATURES** | |
| Primary highway | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s113.gif |
| Secondary highway | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s114.gif |
| Light duty road | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s115a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s115b.gif |
| Unimproved road | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s116a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s116b.gif |
| Trail | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s117.gif |
| Dual highway | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s118a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s118b.gif |
| Dual highway with median strip | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s119a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s119b.gif |
| Road under construction | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s120a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s120b.gif |
| Underpass; overpass | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s121a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s121b.gif |
| Bridge | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s122a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s122b.gif |
| Drawbridge | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s123a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s123b.gif |
| Tunnel | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s124a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s124b.gif |
| **RAILROADS AND RELATED FEATURES** | |
| Standard gauge single track; station | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s125.gif |
| Standard gauge multiple track | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s126.gif |
| Abandoned | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s127.gif |
| Under construction | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s128.gif |
| Narrow gauge single track | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s129.gif |
| Narrow gauge multiple track | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s130.gif |
| Railroad in street | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s131a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s131b.gif |
| Juxtaposition | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s132.gif |
| Roundhouse and turntable | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s133.gif |
| **TRANSMISSION LINES AND PIPELINES** | |
| Power transmission line: pole; tower | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s134a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s134b.gif |
| Telephone line | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s135a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s135b.gif |
| Aboveground oil or gas pipeline | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s136.gif |
| Underground oil or gas pipeline | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s137a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s137b.gif |
| **BOUNDARIES** | |
| National | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s025.gif |
| State or territorial | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s026.gif |
| County | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s027.gif |
| Civil township | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s028.gif |
| Incorporated city | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s029.gif |
| Park, reservation, or monument | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s030a.gif |
| Small Park | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s031.gif |
| **LAND SURVEY SYSTEMS** | |
| ***U.S. Public Land Survey System*** | |
| Township or range line | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s032.gif |
| Section Line | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s034.gif |
| Found section corner; found closing corner | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s036.gif |
| Witness corner; meander corner | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s037.gif |
| ***Other land surveys*** | |
| Township or range line | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s038.gif |
| Section line | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s039.gif |
| Land grant or mining claim; monument | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s040.gif |
| Fence line | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s041a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s041b.gif |
| **CONTROL DATA AND MONUMENTS** | |
| ***Horizontal control*** | |
| Third order or better, permanent mark | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s002.gif |
| With third order or better elevation | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s003.gif |
| Check spot elevation | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s004.gif |
| Coincident with section corner | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s005.gif |
| Unmonumented\* | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s006.gif |
| ***Vertical control*** | |
| Third order or better, with tablet | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s007.gif |
| Third order or better, recoverable mark | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s008.gif |
| Bench mark found at section corner | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s009.gif |
| Spot elevation | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s010.gif |
| ***Boundary monument*** | |
| With tablet | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s011.gif |
| Without tablet | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s012.gif |
| With number and elevation | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s013.gif |
| U.S. mineral or location monument | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s014.gif |
| **RIVERS, LAKES, AND CANALS** | |
| Intermittent stream | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s076a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s076b.gif |
| Intermittent river | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s077a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s077b.gif |
| Disappearing stream | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s078.gif |
| Perennial stream | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s079.gif |
| Perennial river | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s080.gif |
| Small falls; small rapids | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s081.gif |
| Large falls; large rapids | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s082.gif |
| Masonry dam | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s083.gif |
| Dam with rock | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s084.gif |
| Dam carrying road | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s085a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s085b.gif |
| Perennial lake; Intermittent lake or pond | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s086a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s086c.gif |
| Dry lake | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s087a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s087b.gif |
| Narrow wash | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s088a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s088b.gif |
| Wide wash | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s089a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s089b.gif |
| Canal, flume, or aquaduct with lock | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s090.gif |
| Elevated aquaduct, flume or conduit | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s091.gif |
| Aquaduct tunnel | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s092.gif |
| Well or spring; spring or seep | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s093.gif |
| **SUBMERGED AREAS AND BOGS** | |
| Marsh or swamp | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s094.gif |
| Submerged marsh or swamp | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s095.gif |
| Wooded marsh or swamp | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s096.gif |
| Submerged wooded marsh or swamp | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s097.gif |
| Rice field | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s098a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s098b.gif |
| Land subject to inundation | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s099a.gifhttp://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s099b.gif |
| **MARINE SHORELINE** | |
| Approximate mean high water | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s060.gif |
| Indefinite or unsurveyed | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s061.gif |
| **BATHYMETRIC FEATURES**  (water depth) | |
| Area exposed at mean low tide; sounding datum | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s072.gif |
| Channel | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s073.gif |
| Offshore oil or gas: well; platform | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s074.gif |
| Sunken rock | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s075.gif |
| **BATHYMETRIC CONTOURS** | |
| Index | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s021.gif |
| Intermediate | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s020.gif |
| Supplementary | http://www.compassdude.com/i/maps/symbols/s024.gif |